

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING



## Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

The CARES Act provides funding to State Education Agencies (SEAs) to support planning for and coordinating during long term closures that include how to provide technology for online learning to all students that continue to be consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements. State and Territory Assistive Technology (AT) Act Programs are equipped to work with SEAs to support distance learning for students that need assistive technology.

State and Territory AT Programs enable individuals with disabilities to learn about, access, and acquire assistive technology needed for education as well as employment, daily and community living. State and Territory AT Programs are able to best match the proper assistive technology with a students' needs, provide the student with a device demonstration, loan a device, and provide training and support for the student and the use of the device.

Assistive technology and adaptive equipment can facilitate learning in a variety of ways for students with disabilities who need technology to maintain or improve their functionality. For example, a student who needs a device to facilitate communication may use an iPad with an app such as Proloquo4Text. This and other similar apps can be used by students who are unable or have difficulty speaking to communicate through typed text. State and Territory AT Programs have information about augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) options, including apps. SEAs can contact their AT Program to learn more about AAC apps that are available for loan as well as training and support available to students, parents, caregivers, and teachers.

[Here you can find the list of the direct contact information for your State and Territory AT Program.](#)

Through the CARES Act, funding has been made available to SEAs to aid in distance learning, including the purchase of educational technology. For students with disabilities, this may include assistive technology (AT) or adaptive equipment. State and Territory AT Programs are prepared to contract with SEAs to aid with such services and supports that help students with disabilities.

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### **State Education Agencies should contact their State Assistive Technology Act Program for technical assistance and to learn more about available AT services that:**

- Support the purchase of appropriate AT and adaptive equipment by aiding with AT assessments for students to identify the best match of AT for home learning environments;
- Provide training for, and support the use of, devices and equipment for both the student and parents for devices distributed to students either by the school or the devices and equipment purchased by an AT assessment conducted by a State AT Program;
- Aid in the development of and ensure accessible work materials are provided to families and students during remote/digital learning periods;
- Develop guidance for the State Education Agency on universal technology supports;
- Provide training for school-based therapists to effectively deliver tele-practice to special education students at home;
- Provide AT and training to Ed Techs and other paraprofessionals working in new eLearning environments;
- Provide information and referral to parents who have disabilities so they can best assist the eLearning of their school aged child at home (child could be general education or special education student).

# AT State Program Directors 2020-2021

## Alabama

ALABAMA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE

STAR PROGRAM

Helen Baker

Executive Director

[Helen.baker@rehab.alabama.gov](mailto:Helen.baker@rehab.alabama.gov)

Office: 334-293-7012

## Alaska

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY OF ALASKA

Mystie Rail

Executive Director

[mystie@atlaak.org](mailto:mystie@atlaak.org)

Office: 907-563-2599 ext 106

Cell: 907-351-5276

## American Samoa

AMERICAN SAMOA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

Nathaniel Peau

AT Specialist for American Samoa Government

[nlpeau@gmail.com](mailto:nlpeau@gmail.com)

Office: 684-699-1371

## Arizona

THE ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM (AZTAP)

Jill Pleasant

Program Director

[Jill.Pleasant@nau.edu](mailto:Jill.Pleasant@nau.edu)

Office: 602-728-9532

## Arkansas

INCREASING CAPABILITIES ACCESS NETWORK

Rick Anderson

Program Manager

[rick.anderson@arkansas.gov](mailto:rick.anderson@arkansas.gov)

Office: 501-666-8868

## California

CALIFORNIA ABILITY TOOLS

Christina Mills

Executive Director

[christina@cfilc.org](mailto:christina@cfilc.org)

Office: 916-325-1690 ext 333

## Colorado

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OF COLORADO

Maureen Melonis, M.N.S., CCC-SLP/L

Associate Director

[maureen.melonis@ucdenver.edu](mailto:maureen.melonis@ucdenver.edu)

Office: 303-315-1283

## Connecticut

CONNECTICUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT PROGRAM

Arlene Lugo

Program Director

[arlene.lugo@ct.gov](mailto:arlene.lugo@ct.gov)

Office: 860-424-4881

## Delaware

DELAWARE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Beth Mineo

Program Director

[mineo@udel.edu](mailto:mineo@udel.edu)

Office: 302-545-3057

## District of Columbia

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Alicia Johns

Program Manager

[ajohns@uls-dc.org](mailto:ajohns@uls-dc.org)

Office: 202-547-0198 ext 134

## Florida

FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR ASSISTIVE SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

Eric Reed

Deputy Director

[ereed@fastinc.org](mailto:ereed@fastinc.org)

Office: 844-353-2278

## Georgia

GEORGIA TOOLS FOR LIFE

Carolyn P. Phillips, M.Ed., CPACC

Director

[carolyn.phillips@design.gatech.edu](mailto:carolyn.phillips@design.gatech.edu)

Office: 404-894-0541

Cell: 404-441-4877

## Guam

GUAM SYSTEM FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (GSAT)

Heidi San Nicolas

Director

[heidi.sannicolas@guamcedders.org](mailto:heidi.sannicolas@guamcedders.org)

Office: 671-735-2490

## Hawaii

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTERS OF HAWAII

Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong

Executive Director

[barbara@atrc.org](mailto:barbara@atrc.org)

Office: 808-532-7112

Cell: 808-554-4947

## Idaho

IDAHO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

Janice Carson

Director

[janicec@uidaho.edu](mailto:janicec@uidaho.edu)

Office: 208-885-6104

## Illinois

ILLINOIS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Willie Gunther

Executive Director

[wgunther@iltech.org](mailto:wgunther@iltech.org)

Office: 217 522-7985

Cell: 217-725-1794

## Indiana

INDIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT PROJECT

Brian Norton, ATP

Director of Assistive Technology

[bnorton@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:bnorton@eastersealscrossroads.org)

Office: 317-466-2001 ext 2460

## Iowa

EASTER SEALS IOWA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Tracy Keninger

Program Director

[tkeninger@eastersealsia.org](mailto:tkeninger@eastersealsia.org)

Office: 515-309-2371

## Kansas

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR KANSANS

Sara Sack

Director

[ssack@ku.edu](mailto:ssack@ku.edu)

Office: 620-421-8367

Cell: 620-717-1691

## Kentucky

KENTUCKY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE NETWORK

James Brown

Program Coordinator

[JamesA.Brown@ky.gov](mailto:JamesA.Brown@ky.gov)

Office: (502) 426-1998

## Louisiana

LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS NETWORK

Yakima Black

President

[yblack@latan.org](mailto:yblack@latan.org)

Office: 225-925-9500

## Maine

MAINE CITE PROGRAM

Kathryn Adams OTL, ATP

Executive Director

[kadams@mainecite.org](mailto:kadams@mainecite.org)

Office: 207-799-2339

Cell: 207-749-0683

## Maryland

MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Lori Markland, MFA, ATA-Cert.

Executive Director

[lmarkland@mdtap.org](mailto:lmarkland@mdtap.org)

Office: 410-554-9477

## Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS MAXIMIZING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN CONSUMERS' HANDS

Ann Shor

Director

[Ann.Shor@state.ma.us](mailto:Ann.Shor@state.ma.us)

Office: 617-204-3602

## Michigan

MICHIGAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

Kathryn Wyeth

Assistive Technology Team Leader

[kdwyeth@mymdrc.org](mailto:kdwyeth@mymdrc.org)

Office: 517-333-2477

## Minnesota

MINNESOTA STAR PROGRAM

Stacie Christensen

Acting Director

[Stacie.Christensen@state.mn.us](mailto:Stacie.Christensen@state.mn.us)

Office: 651-201-2500

## Mississippi

PROJECT START

Jamie Tucker

Project Director

[jtucker@mdrs.ms.gov](mailto:jtucker@mdrs.ms.gov)

Office: 601-853-5249

## Missouri

MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

David Baker

Director

[dbaker@mo-at.org](mailto:dbaker@mo-at.org)

Office: 816-655-6707

## Montana

MONTANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Molly Kimmel, OTR/L

Program Director

[molly.kimmel@umontana.edu](mailto:molly.kimmel@umontana.edu)

Office: 406-243-5751

## Nebraska

NEBRASKA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

Tobias Orr

Director - ATP

[tobias.orr@nebraska.gov](mailto:tobias.orr@nebraska.gov)

Office: 402-853-1582

## Nevada

NEVADA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE

John Rosenlund

Director

[jrosenlund@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:jrosenlund@adsd.nv.gov)

Office: 775-687-0835

## New Hampshire

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Therese Willkomm, PhD, ATP

Director

[theresew@unh.edu](mailto:theresew@unh.edu)

Office: 603-491-6555

## New Jersey

RICHARD WEST ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVOCACY CENTER (ATAC)

Mike Marotta

Director

[mmarotta@drnj.org](mailto:mmarotta@drnj.org)

Office: 609-292-9742

## New Mexico

NEW MEXICO TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Tracy Agiovlasitis

Program Manager

[Tracy.agiovlasitis@state.nm.us](mailto:Tracy.agiovlasitis@state.nm.us)

Office: 505-469-1489

## New York

NEW YORK STATE TRIAD PROGRAM

Melinda Dolezal

Director

[melinda.dolezal@justicecenter.ny.gov](mailto:melinda.dolezal@justicecenter.ny.gov)

Office: 518-549-0220



## North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Tammy Koger

Director

[tammy.koger@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tammy.koger@dhhs.nc.gov)

Office: 919-855-3544

## North Dakota

ASSISTIVE

Jeannie Krull, MS/CCC-SLP, ATP

Program Manager

[jmkrull@ndassistive.org](mailto:jmkrull@ndassistive.org)

Office: 701-365-4728

## Northern Mariana Islands

COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

Pamela Sablan

Executive Director

[psablan.cnmicdd@gmail.com](mailto:psablan.cnmicdd@gmail.com)

Office: 670-664-7000

## Ohio

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY OF OHIO

Bill Darling

Executive Director

[darling.12@osu.edu](mailto:darling.12@osu.edu)

Office: 614-292-7721

## Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA ABLE TECH

Linda Jaco, MS

Associate Director and Director for Sponsored Programs

[linda.jaco@okstate.edu](mailto:linda.jaco@okstate.edu)

Office: 405-744-9864

## Oregon

ACCESS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Laurie Brooks

President

[laurie@accesstechnologiesinc.org](mailto:laurie@accesstechnologiesinc.org)

Office: 503-361-1201

## Pennsylvania

TECHOWL-TECHNOLOGY FOR OUR WHOLE LIVES

Kim Singleton

Director

[kim.singleton@temple.edu](mailto:kim.singleton@temple.edu)

Office: 215-204-3862

Cell: 267-324-8300

## Puerto Rico

PUERTO RICO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Maria Hernandez

Director

[pratp@pratp.upr.edu](mailto:pratp@pratp.upr.edu)

Office: 787-474-9999

## Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

Melanie Sbardella

Program Director

[melanie.sbardella@ors.ri.gov](mailto:melanie.sbardella@ors.ri.gov)

Office: 401-462-7917

## South Carolina

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Carol Page, PhD, CCC-SLP, ATP

Program Manager

[carol.page@uscmcd.sc.med](mailto:carol.page@uscmcd.sc.med)

Office: 803-935-5301

## South Dakota

DAKOTALINK

Page Hudson

Grant Program Manager

[phudson@dakotalink.net](mailto:phudson@dakotalink.net)

Office: 605-394-6742

## Tennessee

TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM

Kim Lilley

Executive Director

[kim.lilley@tn.gov](mailto:kim.lilley@tn.gov)

Office: 615-532-4103

Cell: 615-418-1729

## Texas

TEXAS TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM

Angela Standridge, M.A, CCC-SLP, ATP

Director

[astandridge@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:astandridge@austin.utexas.edu)

Office: 512- 232-0751

Cell: 512-662-1815

## U.S. Virgin Islands

TECHNOLOGY RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Kimberly Mills

Executive Director

[kimberly.mills@uvi.edu](mailto:kimberly.mills@uvi.edu)

Office: 340-693-1322

## Utah

UTAH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Sachin Pavithran

Program Director

[sachin.pavithran@usu.edu](mailto:sachin.pavithran@usu.edu)

Office: 435-797-6572

## Vermont

VERMONT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Phillip Seiler

[phillip.seiler@vermont.gov](mailto:phillip.seiler@vermont.gov)

Office: 802-241-0312

## Virginia

VIRGINIA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM

Barclay Shepard

Manager

[Barclay.Shepard@dars.virginia.gov](mailto:Barclay.Shepard@dars.virginia.gov)

Office: 804-662-9990

## Washington

WASHINGTON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT PROGRAM (WATAP)

Alan Knue

Director

[aknue@uw.edu](mailto:aknue@uw.edu)

Office: 206-685-6836

## West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Jessi Wright

Program Director

[jdwright@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:jdwright@hsc.wvu.edu)

Office: 304-293-4692

Cell: 304-613-2848

## Wisconsin

WISCONSIN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Laura Plummer, MA, CRC, ATP

Program Coordinator

[laura.plummer1@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:laura.plummer1@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Office: 608-266-9354

Cell: 608-514-2513

## Wyoming

WYOMING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES (WATR)

Sandy Root-Elledge

Executive Director

[sre@uwyo.edu](mailto:sre@uwyo.edu)

Office: 307-766-2764

The National Organization Representing State Assistive Technology Act Programs